Issue 129 December 2015

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

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Cut-off date for Spring Equinox Issue receipt of copy is Tuesday February 09, 2016
Cut-off date for Summer Solstice Issue receipt of copy is Tuesday, May 10, 2016,

***Front Cover** A festive torus by Michel Since, suitable for the Winter Solstice or for Thanksgiving! - Ed.*

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of IGKT Executive Committee meeting of November 15th, 2015
Out of 14 members we had multiple part-time attendees, thanks to Skype's poor connections.

Future meetings:-
May 2016 AGM, in Hampshire (south of England)
October 2016 Half-yearly meeting, France

Difficulties with logging on to the website are nearly all resolved. Request is now formally made for an IT-savvy individual member to assist with web-site management by updating on a regular basis [***call or speak to an EC member***]. Some members of the web-site Forum are using inappropriate language. The Forum is being monitored closely by an Executive Committee member, until this matter is resolved.

The Editor of Knotting Matters will repeat his earlier information broadsheet into a brief to assist members in making article submissions (see this issue, page 13). KM is being sent to 975 members and 50 members will receive a final notice prior to being cut off from receipt of KM, with a further 48 being removed from the rolls.

A junior Members area of the Forum and of KM is being pursued. The Committee will be reviewing a method to revive the Knot Challenge under appropriate guidelines. Member input is sought.

Our next meetings will be the 24th of January, 2016 and Sunday, March 6, 2016.

David Pepper
Secretary Executive Committee

Letters to The Editor
The Things You Say!!

Hi Lindsey,
I thought you would like to see this e-mail from Lewis - an 11yr old boy in New Zealand who has just become a Junior member.

His mother had contacted us from the website and asked if there was anyone who he could contact about knots. Unfortunately, he lives in Rotorua, and we don't have any other members in that area. I suggested he join as a Junior member and [sdo I] sent out Knotting Matters and the CD with Knot tying videos and he certainly seems to have enjoyed it.
I thought it might make a nice little article for Knotting Matters - I have checked that it was OK for me to do this and yes, he would be happy with that.
Perhaps we could encourage a 'Junior Section' and our younger members could contact each other in this way

Best wishes
Caroline Sandrey
IGKT Membership Secretary [***send your requests to The Editor***]

Dear Caroline,
Here are some pics of my creations [p. 6]. I make and sell these, rope costs $30, so I sell for $60. I learnt all my knots from Des's books (until your CD came along). PS I Love my Cat.

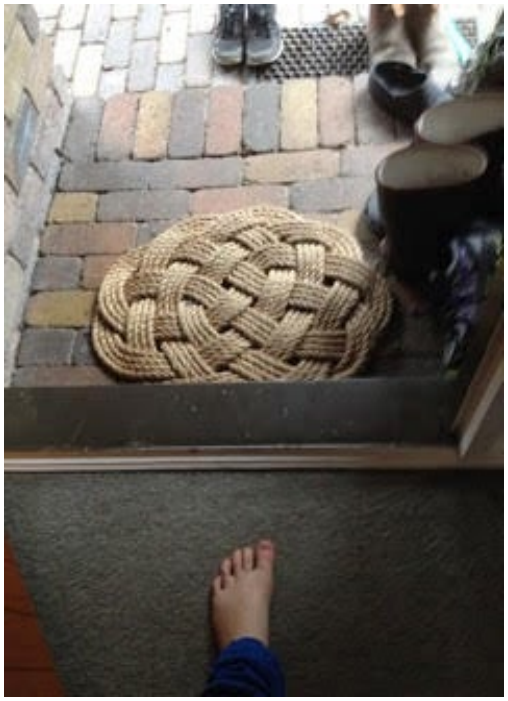
I learnt this from the CD I made it yesterday [p. 6].

I learnt the monkey fist early on in my knotting career.

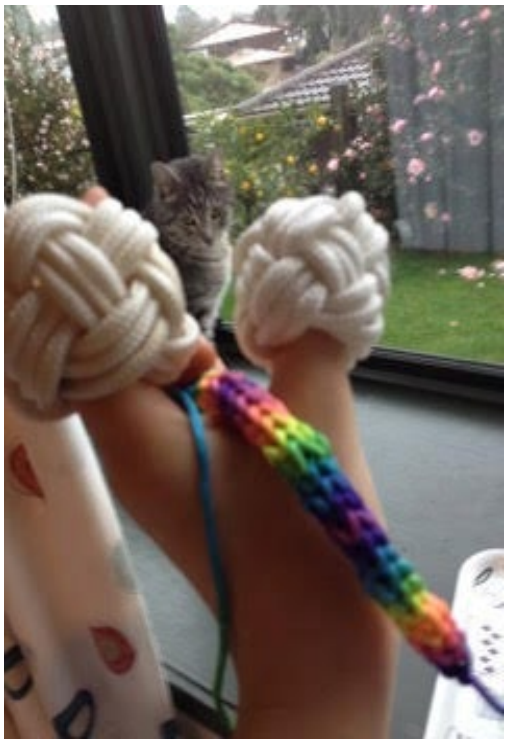
I made some woggles for my scarf in scouts [p. 6].

Kind Regards, Lewis Yetsenga
bartandkirsten@xtra.co.nz

Bracelet (above)
Monkey fist and Des Pawson's book



Mats, selling for $60 (above)
Woggles (below)



Lindsey:

After discussions (last May) with the public relations arm of Scouts Canada, they approached a national newspaper about doing an article on Draik & Natalie (The fastest young knot tyers in the world). Albeit that it isn't a very detailed article, the IGKT is now known to Scouts Canada and, thanks to this newspaper article, throughout Canada. Unfortunately, I can't say too much more about these kids because, as IGKT members, they will be reading this and as their Scout Leader, I don't want to pump them up too much. (Yes, I'm quite proud of their accomplishments and yes they do tie other knots).

However, I would like to take this opportunity to openly thank Dave Lambert (Southern Ontario Knot Tyers) who, with my help, coaches these kids. If you haven't already viewed the video of these kids in action, go onto You Tube and type in "Six Knot Challenge" or go into our home page at http://www.knotcanada.com/ I think that you will be impressed. Just a note that the times shown on the video do not reflect their fastest times recorded. That said, if this isn't impressive enough, I'm sure that watching Natalie doing the Challenge blindfolded .....is!

In my opinion, the best way that IGKT members can promote our organization, our mission statement, and knot tying in general is to take any and every opportunity to spread the word. In other words PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE.

Cheers

John Staley, President
Southern Ontario Knot Tyers
http://knotcanada.webs.com/

It is with great sadness that we have to announce Gordon Perry's death on Wednesday 30th December 2015 after a long struggle with cancer. The notes that follow are from his great friend and current Chairman of the IGKT Trustees, Ken Yalden.

Gordon started his knot tying as a Sea Cadet in the unit TS Steadfast, Kingston-on-Thames, a venue later used, in 1990, for an IGKT AGM. While at school, Gordon joined the crew as deck-boy of a working Thames spritsail barge, in the days when it was normal for the crew to be one man, one boy and a dog. This early practical experience gave Gordon strong views on knot tying.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1953 as a Boy (this was a rate not a gender statement). He specialised in Naval Communications and served for 40 years. While at HMS Ganges, Gordon continued his beloved sailing as a Boy Coxswain, and came into his own as a knot tyer, taking on commissions (for a fee!) to point and graft hammock clews and lashings for other Boys who were less capable. As a young "sparker", with skills in Morse code, he soon set up his own shack as a radio ham, which he ran for a few years.

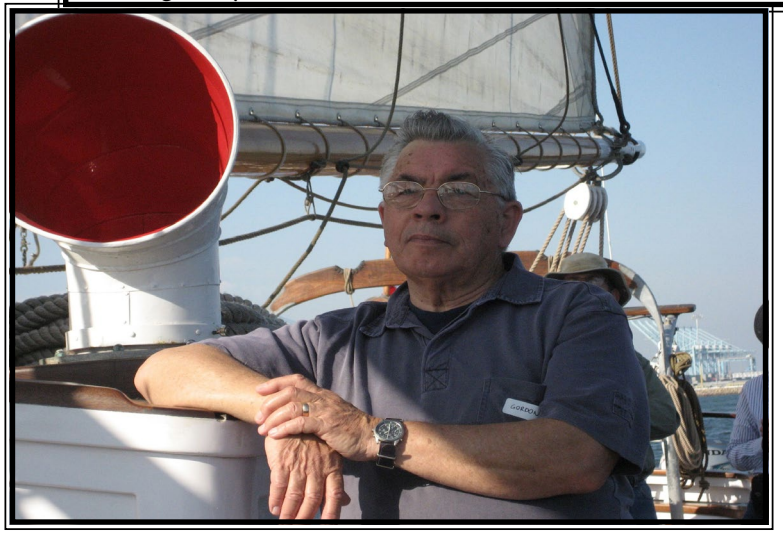
Gordon met Ken Yalden at HMS Mercury in 1980. Since Gordon shot for the Royal Navy - another hobby at which he excelled - he worked as a coach at the shooting club, where he led the members to a high standard. While at Mercury, Gordon discovered he had been at sea with Ken on a world deployment on HMS Centaur, 1958-60, and that they also had a joint interest in knot tying.

During his time on Centaur and in the back of a jet aircraft because of his sparker's skills, Gordon acquired his love of flying and discovered that being fired off by catapult was an exciting experience. When he finally retired from the Royal Navy, Gordon gained his own pilot's licence, and took several knot tyers flying. Flying also led to an interest in the weather, so Gordon set up his own weather station at home to get early notice for good flying days.

The IGKT was formed whilst Gordon was at sea in the South Atlantic in 1982. On his return from the Falklands, prompted by Ken, Gordon joined the Guild in 1984. While also fitting in his naval duties, it was not long before Gordon took on the role as Editor of Knotting Matters from 1991 to 1995. As well as writing books, Gordon subsequently took on the role of Guild Librarian, now tapping into skills acquired while mustering hundreds of Naval Signal books. He set up the system of organising the IGKT library into transport boxes, so they could be shared by [UK] branches and exchanged at IGKT meetings.

Gordon was a great advocate of the international aspect of the Guild and was present at the inaugural meeting of the North American Branch. At a subsequent meeting in Virginia, USA, Gordon took an aircraft up on a solo flight and was also able to have a meeting at the Newport News Maritime Museum to do the spade work on the Bushby Transcription Project. Gordon proposed this project at the next IGKT AGM. The important task of transcription of this early knotting manuscript was recently completed with great success by a group of IGKT members.

As well as meetings in the USA, Gordon much enjoyed those in Europe. Even with failing health, he made the trip to Karlskrona in Sweden. His wise comments and input to the 2002 and 2007 meetings in Fareham will be greatly missed at future events.

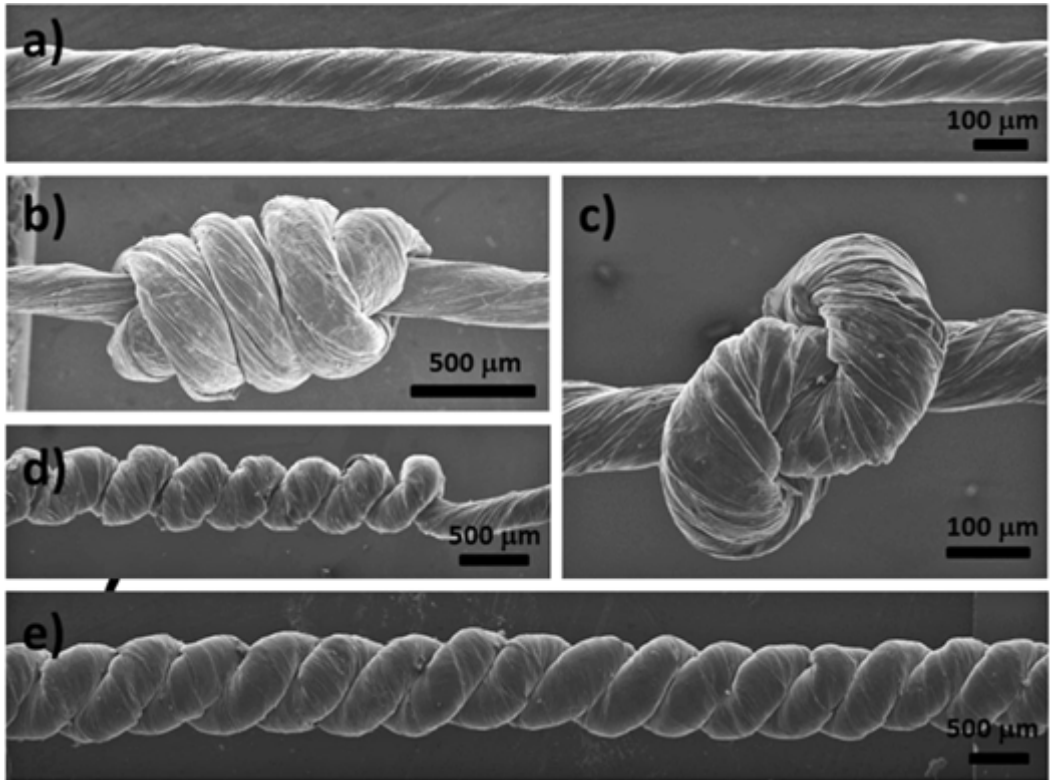


Gordon Perry aboard the brigantine, Irving Johnson, during Gordon's visit to Los Angeles, California, in 2007.

Nano-Knots

by
Dr. Colin Byfleet

Following Frank Brown's images of knots in graphene oxide, in KM 126, I was interested to see the below photo of the same material being shown at a recent nano-science conference. The scale-markers are in microns, written as μm (1 μm = 1 micrometre = 0.000039 inches; 100 micrometres = 0.1mm; 1000 mm = 1 metre) - [***imagine something 1/20th the thickness of a human hair***]
The multiple overhand knot in (b) is very neat and the rope in (e) also looks professional. Considerable research effort is also going into the study of knots in DNA – knots really are in our genes (or vice versa)!



The Leonardo Challenge

by
Matthew Beaudoin

When Knots are Not the Goal, but the inspiration

As a member of the Guild, we have each been to knot tying events or at least seen the pictures from the amazing events held around the world. As a member of the generations of nautical history here in New England, I am well versed in the traditional museum and presentation of nautical history, but the Leonardo Challenge at the Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden, CT, April 24th, 2015, was completely new.

The Leonardo Challenge, where knots were used as a spark of inspiration to create art, not necessarily the art itself:

The Challenge

The Challenge began 19 years ago, quoting Leonardo's advice to costume designers: "Skip the labor of embroidery knots; improvise with millet, glue, and paint." The 20th Challenge returns to knots as the object of our improvisations. The Challenge is less "What knots can you make?" than "What can you make of knots?" Explore the meaning of knots – the knot as a secure solution, the knot as an intractable obstacle. Explore the materials – filaments, fibers, laces, cords and ribbons, living branches, or smoke rings. Explore the culture of knots – as maps, as records, as a paradigm for teaching and learning.[1]

It all started with an email from John Burke 18 days before the event: " *The IGKT-NAB Board does not feel that we could appropriately accommodate this request. I am passing it along to you to see if you may be interested.*" I contacted Sally Hill at the Eli Whitney Museum to learn more. The conversation started with her project. "How do I tie a knot in a bottle?"

[1] http://www.eliwhitney.org/museum/exhibitions/knot-what-you-imagine

OK, this is going to be a fun time. We looked at the guild website and other places, and she eventually found tools and a path to create it. When we started talking about how Jill and I could help, I offered up a selection of my grandfather's pieces to add to their background display as well as 20 knots (including a five-pass prolonged mat) as auction prizes. I still had no idea who I was talking to, or how this was going to play through.

A bit over a week later I went to drop off the work. The Eli Whitney is NOT your typical museum. The entire building was a collection of workrooms and tools. It felt like an overgrown version of dad's workshop. It was amazing! We dropped off a knot frame, lamp and a couple other pieces on a table in the workroom, and we prepared to return in a couple days.

Thursday, the event kicked off. We arrived early to find my grandfather's knots used as the entryway. Classic marlinespike work; a traditional space that we all find familiar leading to a cool twist on our expectation. Past that, everything was different. Much of the art couldn't be given proper vetting in print. There was a 'peep show' of knotted figures dancing around wire poles and powered by a small motor, a series of macramé stitched to match the back of a model face, sketches, wood carving, tatting, and textiles. The inspiration of knots led these artists in interesting directions.

The Eli Whitney strives to inspire people to make and discover their creativity. There is an apprentice program where children are raised to understand shop and artisan work. This event was their major annual fundraiser, and they were able to bring in over $50,000 to invest in keeping the community in touch with the inventive and industrial spirit of Eli Whitney.

I just want to thank John Burke for thinking of us, and Sally for letting us play a small role. This event was a very special day for Jill and me. If any of you are in the area, I encourage you to connect with the Eli Whitney Museum at eliwhitney.org

"How-To" Send Articles

by Your Knotting Matters Editor

I prepared a rather long and detailed method for folks to send articles (see KM #125 p. 7) to Knotting Matters for publication. It has now been a year since that article, so I have been asked to repeat it, only shorter, to encourage all our budding authors and artists. Here you go:

Send copy in Word - do not type, hand-write or send in PDF formats unless you absolutely HAVE to,
Send photographs, drawings and other illustrations separately, with ID in the Word text as to where you think they should be,
Keep the photographs to less than 5 MB apiece,if possible and keep drawings as dense black on bright white as possible,
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I may alter your text or grammar if it cannot otherwise be readily understood, fit into the pages or is too long (more than 1000 words may require some severe trimming). I look forward to your articles - keep 'em coming!

PS (This piece is 175 words)

Hello Lindsey.
I wonder if you would have any interest in publishing this picture in KM? I was rather astounded to see it in the middle of Manhattan. It is, of course, not ropework but a metal window grille on an amazing building called Gotham Hall, on Broadway in New York, which was originally a bank building. I have no idea why such a motif was chosen but the workmanship is very good.
Brian Wedge UK Member.

Something You Do Not Need To Know

paraphrased by
Richard Hopkins

Have you ever wondered why laid ropes all look very much alike? We would say that it is because they are made in the same way but is this sufficient? Ropes from long ago are easily recognisable whatever the material from which they are made. Our apparent lack of curiosity probably stems from the fact that over the millennia we were taught how to make rope and, as long as we ended up with workable cord, did not need to know more. Mathematicians, however, were not so easily satisfied and a couple of them, Jakob Bohr and Kasper Olsen from the Technical university of Denmark produced a paper in 2010 on the ancient art of laying rope. In this they studied the geometrical properties of helical structures and applied it to ropemaking to show that we are, in fact, doing it right.

Helices have a maximum number of rotations that can be applied to them and the paper shows that the twist in a rope is a geometrical feature and not a material one. In simpler English this means that ropes cannot have more than a certain number of turns per unit length. If there are fewer turns than the maximum then the rope will have a tendency to twist under tension regardless of the material from which the rope is made. They call the maximum number of turns the zero-twist configuration.

We know that when ropes are made correctly the strands are kept under tension so that on completion, and removal of the load, the strands "relax" into the zero-twist configuration giving a rope that will not spin under load. While this has been known for thousands of years we now have the mathematical answer.

The paper follows on to say that, at zero-twist, the pitch angle of the ropes, or the angle the groove between strands makes, with a line at right angles to the rope, is the same for ropes with the same number of strands. Thus, for two strand rope it is 39.4°, for three strand rope it is 42.8° while for four strand rope the angle is 43.8°.

This explains why laid ropes of different materials look very similar. With these ideal angles the rope will not rotate under load but will be quite stiff. In order to get a more useful and flexible rope, the strands are laid in not quite the best pitch angle so that, under tension, the rope will adjust itself to the zero-twist configuration. This is achieved by use of the "top," which leads the strands from a radius which is purposely too large.

They also show that a zero-twist three strand rope will always be 68% of the length of its original strands, which explains why ropewalks in various parts of the world are roughly the same length when used to produce rope and cord for the same purposes (other commercial factors aside). The point is also made that, until the introduction of wire rope, there was no need to know much about the zero-twist, but a non- zero-twist wire rope on a crane, for example, would unwind. Wire ropes for cranes, therefore, have to be constructed as counter-rotated multi-layered steel wires which are rotationally restricted.

Although the mathematics of the article is beyond me, I am delighted by the conclusion of the authors that, as long as you follow the rope making instructions which have been passed down through the ages, there is no need to know the maths.

The ancient art of laying rope.
Jakob Bohr and Kasper Olsen
Department of Physics
Technical University of Denmark
arXiv:1004.0814v3[physics.pop-ph]-8Aug2010

TH Crossing Points

by Geoffrey Budworth

Moving on from my earlier article in KM #120 (September 2013) on triplet Turks' heads, here's how to calculate the number of crossing points in any Turk's head knot. Look at a simple twined couple of leads with seven bights (Fig. 1 below) and it is obvious that it has seven crossing points, while the familiar IGKT logo with its three leads and four bights has eight crossing points. Then again, a five lead by nine bight layout (Fig. 2) has 36 crossing points. Reduced to the lazy shorthand of cryptic equations:

2L x 7B = 7XP, 3L x 4B = 8XP, and 5L x 9B = 36XP

where:
L is leads, B is bights, and XP is crossing points.

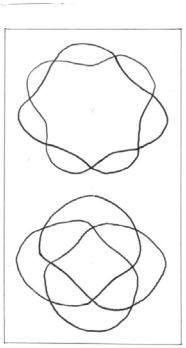


Figure 1 – a 2-lead x7-bight & a 3-lead x 4-bight Turks' head knots

So it is reasonable to conjecture that what one must do is multiply the number of bights by the number of leads (minus 1) to arrive at the number of crossing points, when:-

(2L – 1) x 7B = 7XP, (3L – 1) x 4B = 8XPP, and (5L – 1) x 9B = 36XP.

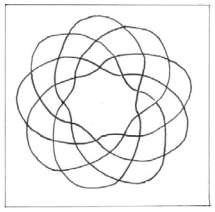


Figure 2 – a 5-lead x 9-bight Turk's head knot

If correct, this procedure should work with any random example, say a 4L x 15B knot (Fig. 3), and it does because:-

(4L -1) x 15B = 45XP.

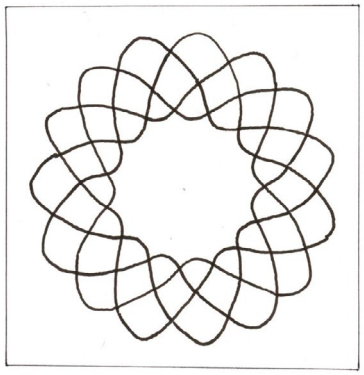


Figure 3 – a 4-lead x 15-bight Turk's head knot

To make the knot drawings easy, I've limited my examples to narrow and more-or-less square knots. The same rule applies to long, thin ones … but note that the multiplication sums will produce different answers. For instance:

(4L – 1) x 15B = 45XP but (15L -1) x 4B = 56XP.

Data dweebs who trawl through all possible TH permutations of L and B will discover that the sequence of XP for 3L knots progresses arithmetically from 6 to 8, and then 10, 12, 14, 16 and so on (in increments of 2). The sequence of 4L knots is 9, 12, 15, 18 … (plus 3). For 5L knots it's 12, 16, 20, 24, 28 … (plus 4). And – you've guessed it – 6L knots go 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 … (plus 5). And so on, and so on. Prime numbers, which are of course only divisible by themselves and 1 [***and are an integer greater than 1***], occur only in (2L- 1) knot calculations.

Plotting a select quartet of these sequences as straight line graphs (Fig. 4) reveals evidence of an expanding universe of TH crossing-points.

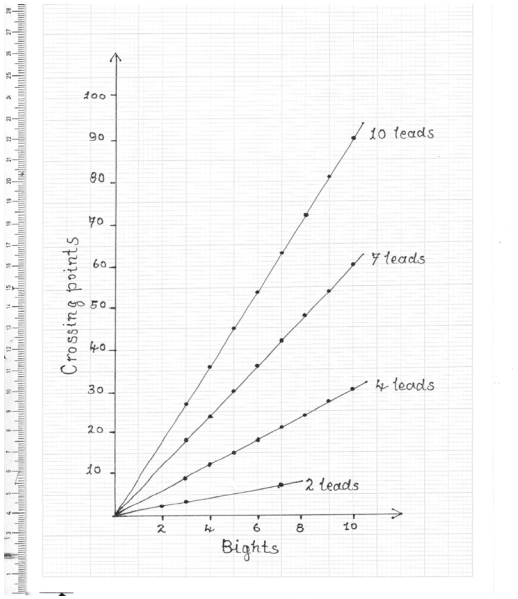


Figure 4 – The straight line graphs of four selected sets of Turks' head knots, plotting the crossing points resulting from their (L-1) x B dimensions.

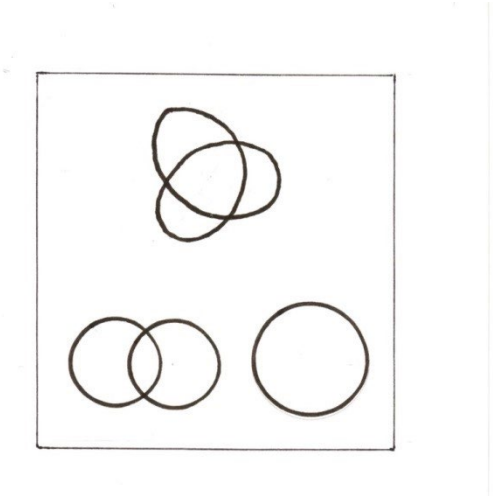
All such linear graphs can, as math mavens will know, be expressed in terms of the algebraic equation:

$$\mathbf{y = mx + c}$$

where: y is the value on the y-axis,
m is the gradient or slope (vertical distance ÷ horizontal distance),
x is the value on the x-axis, and
c is the value at the point where the line crosses or intercepts the y-axis.

By tracing them back to their Big Bang origins, we can also find out if the '**leads-minus-1**' conjecture can be proved wrong by applying it (*reductio ad absurdum*) to what might be less amenable specimens (Fig. 5). In fact, it fits them too.

Figure 5 – a trefoil, Hopf link & an 'unknot'



The trefoil, a (2L – 1) x 3B = 3XP, as well as the (2L – 1) x 2B = 2XP (a Hopf link) both occur at earlier locations on the gradient of the 2L x 7B knot, with which I began this article. Revelatory, however, is that a (1L-1) x any number of imaginary bights – which must inevitably always result in a product of zero XP – is an endless loop (the topologist's 'unknot'). Occupying the zero point on both x and y-axes of the graph, it is the singularity from which the universe of TH crossing points explodes.

What possible use is all of this? Well, collecting and collating data is rarely time wasted. From raw data, useful intelligence may be distilled, and interpreting knotty phenomena in mathematical terms is the first step to treating knotting as science (rather than simply art and craft). For, as the Scottish zoologist and classical scholar (Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson (1860-1948) wrote:-

'Numerical precision is the very soul of science.'

∞ oOo ∞

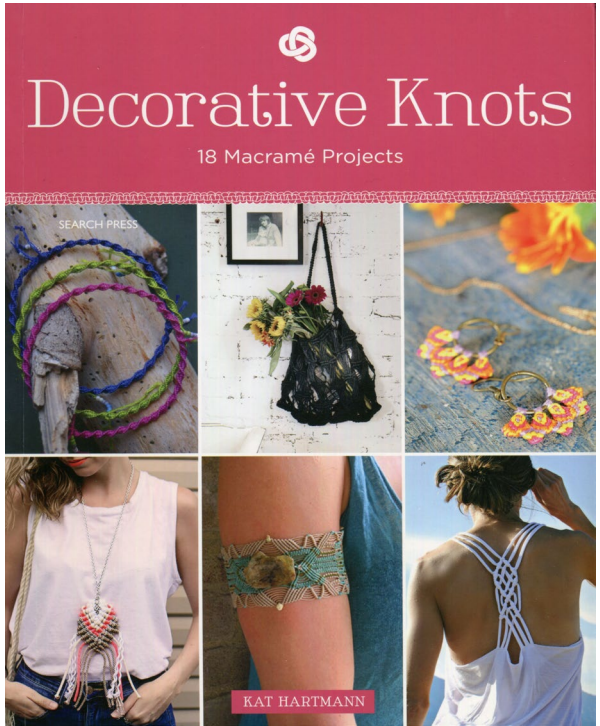
Book Review

by Liz Pawson

Decorative Knots, 18 Macramé Projects.
Kat Hartman, Search Press, 2015. ISBN 978-1-78221-217-1
£12.99

At first glance, this seems an attractive and well laid-out book, with some interesting projects.
However, these projects and their methods have been brought together in this book from thirteen different contributors, which I feel makes the book rather confusing, with a degree of inconsistency in terminology and some diagrams hard to interpret.
I believe there to be an error in the instructions for the Chinese Crown Knot and the suggestion, that you could make a Crown Sennit from a series of these, is incorrect.
Although many of the projects are very simple, I do not recommend this for a beginner. Even so, I was tempted to make a pair of earrings from the book, with which earrings I am very pleased.

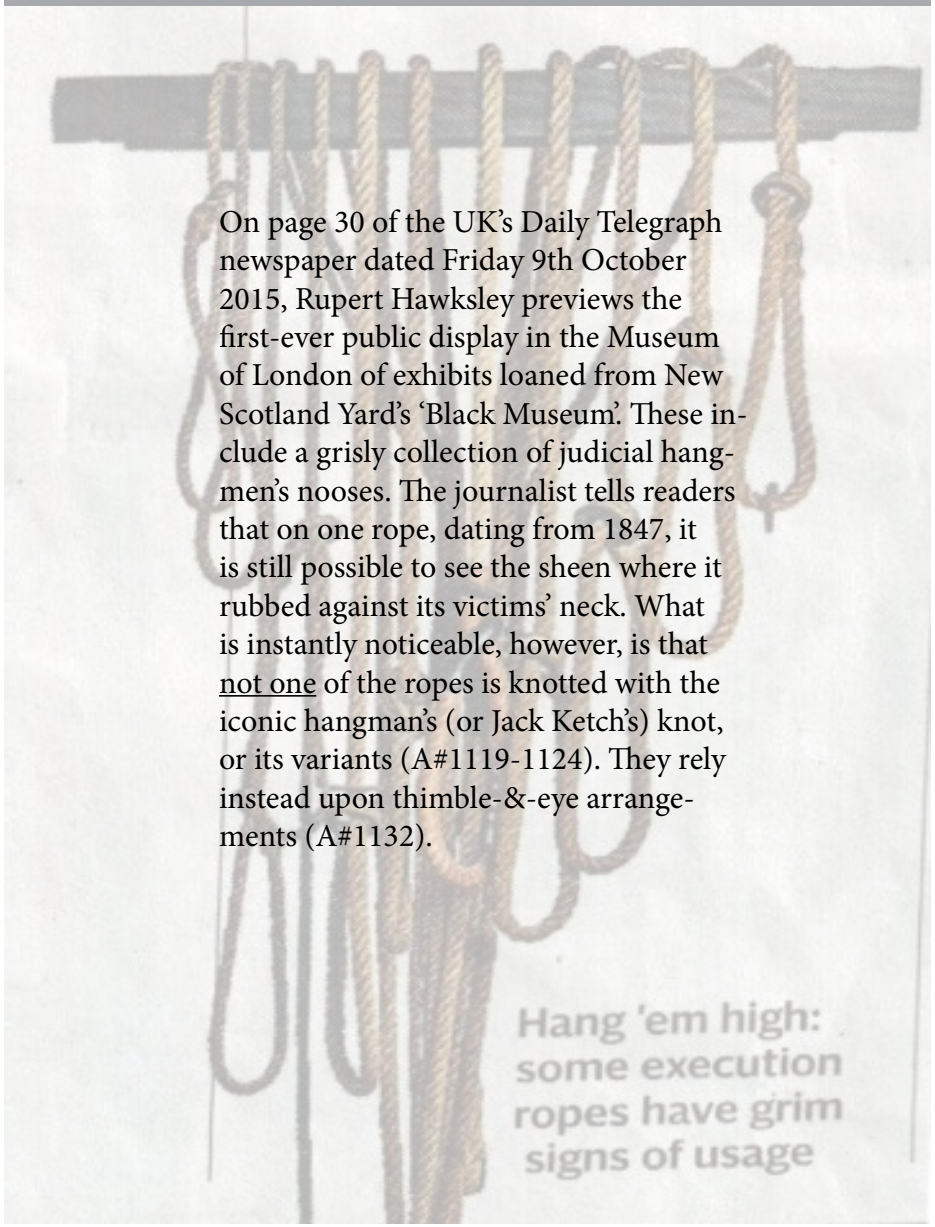
Liz Pawson



Hangmen's Nooses

by
Our UK Stringer

On page 30 of the UK's Daily Telegraph newspaper dated Friday 9th October 2015, Rupert Hawksley previews the first-ever public display in the Museum of London of exhibits loaned from New Scotland Yard's 'Black Museum'. These include a grisly collection of judicial hangmen's nooses. The journalist tells readers that on one rope, dating from 1847, it is still possible to see the sheen where it rubbed against its victims' neck. What is instantly noticeable, however, is that not one of the ropes is knotted with the iconic hangman's (or Jack Ketch's) knot, or its variants (A#1119-1124). They rely instead upon thimble-&-eye arrangements (A#1132).



IGKT Half-Yearly Meeting

October 2015
Rotterdam Maritime Museum

Rotterdam was sunny and bright for the weekend of the fifth half-yearly IGKT meeting to be held in the Netherlands. We had a lovely room, opening onto part of Rotterdam's complex waterfront, within the city's Maritime Museum. This meant the public were freely able to enter our exhibition and we indeed had many interested visitors. October meetings are free of [***most***] official business and so the exchange of ideas and skills with one-another (and our outside visitors) continued throughout the weekend.

Setting-up took part of Friday afternoon and then most of the crew adjourned to some of the many restaurants in the area for a very jolly evening. Our president, Antoine, was unfortunately delayed. He had chosen to come by train, only to find that Belgian Railways had declared a 24-hour strike, which meant that the only way from Paris was by a crowded bus – which didn't arrive until 6am on Saturday. Early-bird Jean-Paul was there to meet him.

Apart from representatives from the host country, there were also members from Denmark, France, Germany, the UK and USA in attendance. Many members brought work and artifacts to exhibit, and together these made a colourful and interesting show. In your correspondent's opinion, the star was a steam-powered ropewalk brought by Horst Schiffer. A small steam engine drove a beautifully made rope-making gear-train to demonstrate the process on a tabletop scale.

One piece of Guild business was carried out. Loïc Aubron, the winner of the 2015 President's Cup, was not able to be at the AGM in Otley and so Antoine now presented him with the trophy to an enthusiastic round of applause. Loïc is the youngest winner of this prestigious prize and he is a very committed and creative knot-tyer.

The weekend was a great success, with 65 sitting down to the traditional Knot-Tyers' Supper on Saturday. Our sincere thanks go to Frits Ottens, his wife Efina, and their team of helpers, for making it such a happy occasion.

New Branch!

On the 14 October the Dorset Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers held its first ever meeting on-board the wonderful Tall Ship Pelican.

The Solent Branch of the IGKT had a stand at this year's Waterfest in Weymouth. Many of the people visiting the stand were interested in forming a local branch of the IGKT. So, as a result of this, the Dorset Branch of the IGKT had its first ever meeting in Weymouth.

With the help of IGKT Solent, Surrey, and Bristol branches, and special guest Geoffrey Budworth, the meeting was started. I think also a special "thank you" should go to Becky Simmons and the crew of the Pelican, for not only allowing us to hold the meeting on-board the Pelican, but also for the excellent food and refreshments they produced from the ship's galley.

There was a good attendance from local people, who wanted to start a branch where they would be able to learn and share ideas relating to knot tying. So, as a result of the meeting, the next meetings will take place in The Royal Dorset Yacht Club http://www.royal-dorset.com/ on a monthly basis. We will be posting future events on this website and also the main IGKT website in the very near future. So please do come back and check when the next meeting will take place.

Contact: Peter Goldstone goldstone@aol.com Tel: +44 (0)1725516258
Venue: Royal Dorset Yacht Club, 11 Custom House Quay Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8BG See website for map details. Lots of free parking after 18:00 Hrs.
Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each of month. (19:30 - 21:00 Hrs)

Center Pages Spread

Horst Schiffer with miniature powerplant (above) and Loïc with President's Cup and some of his work (below)

Exhibition Room with model ropewalk in foreground (above) and Loïc with President's Cup (below)

Tag Line Training

by Dan Cashin DOD/USN (Ret.)

Tag Line Training [*for folks who use tag lines to control lifted material*]
Dan Cashin, Rigger Trainer
DOD/USN (Ret.) Copyright 2010

Commands

Feed
To pay out line in a slack condition as needed.
Check
To pay out line in a taut condition as needed.
Hold
To stop any motion of the line or piece.
Surge
To take up line in a taut condition. Usually with a winch, capstan or other mechanical device.

Hazards

Inertia & Momentum
Inertia is the tendency of a static piece to not move. Heavy pieces are hard to steer.
Momentum is the tendency of a moving piece to keep moving. Heavy pieces are hard to stop.
Wind
Wind can add additional strain to your line. It can also cause the piece to move in an unwanted direction and speed.
Power Lines
If your line is wet you stand a good chance of getting electrocuted! Try to use only new, dry and clean POLYPROPYLENE line.
Rope Burns
Wear leather palmed gloves, not bare hands!

Electrical Clearances While Working

Up to 50 kV	10 feet or 3.1 meters
Over 50 kV to 200 kV	15 feet or 4.6 meters
Over 200 kV to 350 kV	20 feet or 6.1 meters
Over 350 kV to 500 kV	25 feet or 7.7 meters
Over 500 kV to 750 kV	35 feet or 10.7 meters
Over 750 kV to 1000 kV	45 feet or 13.7 meters

Electrical Clearances In Transit

Up to .75 kV	4 feet or 1.3 meters
Over .75 kV to 50 kV	6 feet or 1.9 meters
Over 50 kV to 345 kV	10 feet or 3.9 meters
Over 345 kV to 700 kV	16 feet or 4.9 meters
Over 750 kV to 1000kV	20 feet or 6.1 meters

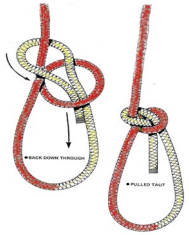
Wind Pressure [*Red font is dangerous wind speed*]

Miles per Hour	Pounds per Square Foot
1	0.01
2	0.02
3	0.04
4	0.08
5	0.12
6	0.18
7	0.24
8	0.32
9	0.4
10	0.49
12	0.71
14	0.96
15	1.11
16	1.25
18	1.55
20	1.97
25	3.08
30	4.43
35	6.03
40	7.87
50	12.3
60	17.7

Line Handling

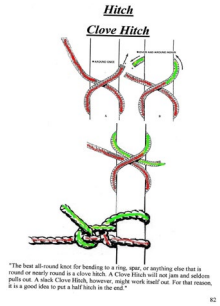
Two common mistakes a rookie tag line tender makes are (1) wrapping the line around the hand and (2) standing in the bight. This is the same as tying yourself to the load! If the load moves unexpectedly, you're GONE!! DON'T DO THIS !

Bowline



The best knot for putting an eye in a line.

Clove Hitch



Used to wrap and secure a line around either a solid or flexible object. If the piece can roll this hitch can untie itself unless an additional half hitch is tied around the standing part.

Sheet or Becket bend

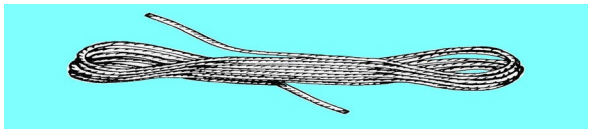
Used to temporarily connect the ends of two different sized lines together. Especially useful for connecting two mooring lines together when they are of such a large size that manually handling them is difficult. When this bend is placed under severe strain it can be later untied if a "TOGGLE" is placed through the knot at the initial junction of the two lines. This toggle must not have sharp edges though.

Coiling [***opposite page***]

Keeping your line neatly coiled will allow you to let out or take up line without tangling.

Faking

If your tag line is too long to carry coiled up neatly in your hand, you can lay it like this. It can then pay out easily and without tangling.



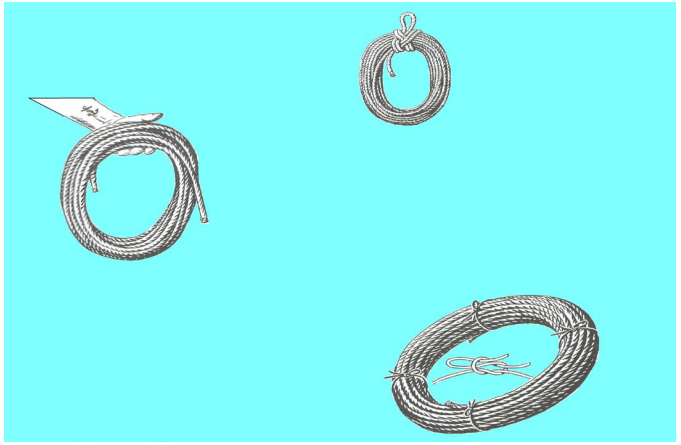
Line capacities in pounds.
Source - Cordage Institute of America.
Design factor of 5 to 1.

Diameter	Manila	Polypro	Nylon
1/4 " (6 thread)	100	220	290
5/16 (9 thread)	180	340	460
3/8" (12 thread)	240	480	660
1/2" (21 thread)	470	750	1,100
5/8"	790	1,100	1,800
3/4"	970	1,500	2,500
7/8"	1,300	2,000	3,600
1"	1,600	2,500	4,500

==========

Remember, some knots can reduce the capacity of your line up to 50% !

To order additional copies;
1-610-446-7831
dcsckp@aol.com



Simple Rope-Making Method

by Frank Brown

One of the few disadvantages for a knotter living in this remote paradise has been the dearth of suitable materials for fancy knot work. To a great extent this situation has been rectified due to trading with, donations from and purchase of such materials overseas. I am extremely grateful to those generous members who have, one way or another, supplied me with a nice collection of cords, braids, string and twine. And now the world shrinking 'net has made obtaining stuff so much easier.

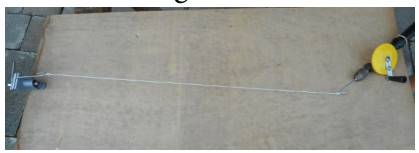
However, while suffering from RDS (rope deficiency syndrome) I hunted round for methods of making up exotic knotting material. I made a couple of rope twisting machines from bent wire, plastic beads and plywood, which served me well in making short lengths of knotting cord from sewing thread, which was available locally in a limited number of colours. Long lengths were possible but arduous. A colleague and I made up some serious lengths of cord which were used for serving the shrouds of an 1867 ketch, but that was in desperation.

Then I was educated into the method of twisting up three stranded material using a twist drill. Thank you Mr Samphier, wherever you are, I am eternally in your debt. Then at a later time I was introduced to ply splitting as a craft by Maggie Machado, bless her. For this craft, four stranded cord is preferred and there were two chances of my obtaining that--- Buckley's and none as we say in Oz. So with a bit of thought, (actually a lot), I worked out a way of twisting up four stranded rope. Here are the two methods.

Three Strand Method.

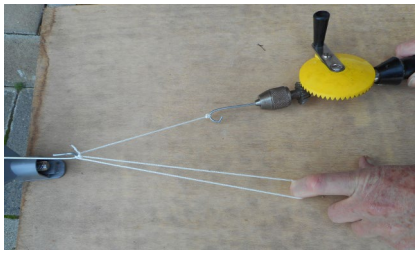
Tools required:
1. Twist drill, either hand drill or power drill with speed control.
2. Two hooks
3. Vice (or vise) to hold one hook

(1) Each end of a length of starting material is attached to the two hooks. In the photos I have used a length of ordinary string, but often use several turns of sewing thread.



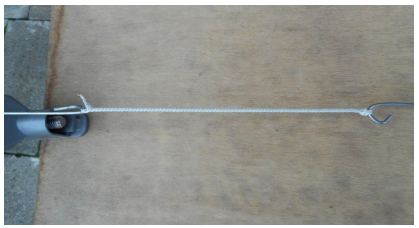
(2) Twist the material so as to tighten the lay. This will cause the material to shorten and has a tendency to distort into chinkles [***aka hockles***]. The tighter the twist, the shorter it will become, and the harder will be the final lay. It is necessary to continually maintain tension to avoid chinkles.

(3) Maintaining tension, hook a finger around about the middle of the twisted up material, bring the drill end around and loop the material over the hook in the vice (vise).



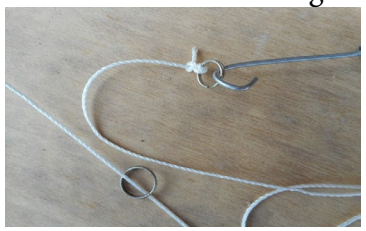
(4) Loop the part held by the finger onto the hook in the drill.

(5) Turn the drill in the opposite direction maintaining tension until material threatens to curl up.



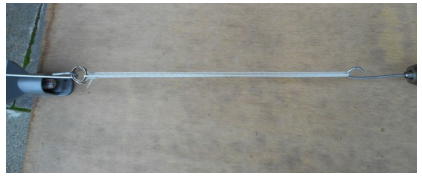
Four Strand Method

Tools Required are the same as for three strand plus some split rings.
(1) Tie material to split rings with another located on bight.



It is not strictly necessary to have a ring at the end destined for the hook in the vice (vise).
(2) Twist up the same as for three strand, again maintaining tension. A reduction in length of 10 to 25 % seems to be optimum, but the decision lies with the operator.
(3) When sufficient twist has been imparted, grasp the free ring and double the material, hooking the drill end ring over the vice (vise) hook, maintaining tension to avoid chinkles.

(4) Disengage the drill and hook it into the middle of the doubled material. Hook the ring held in the fingers onto the vice (vise) hook and the drill hook onto the now middle of the material, still maintaining tension.



(5) The three rings are now on the vice hook.
(6) Twist up in the opposite direction until desired amount of twist / hardness of lay, is achieved.

I have used the techniques successfully to make a lot of different cords with some variation in the hardness of the lay. I have seldom used a power drill to make long lengths as I have experienced some difficulties in maintaining the essential tension. I recommend anybody attempting to make long lengths - get a willing helper.

BLAME IT ON CHARLIE

by
Patrick Spiering

It's all Charlie's fault. Charlie Bell that is. I'm sure that many of you have experienced the same things. My wife sighs as another package arrives at the door. Her eyes roll as another book finds its way to my mailbox. (Good grief, some of them aren't even in English). The miles of cordage, in drawers, on spools, in the garage, in boxes in the basement. (I am sure I have enough to re-rig the Cutty Sark). Tools get left on the coffee table and in the dining room. Unfinished projects occupy the ping pong table while I get side tracked by some other project that I want to try. None of that would happen if it hadn't been for Charlie.

I was surfing the internet years ago when I came across Charlie's work on the old Knot Heads World Wide site (thank-you Brian Kidd). There were pictures from an event attended by the Pacific Americas Branch of the IGKT. Charlie Bell had a few sennit frames on display. There was a picture of him as a boy in a sailor outfit. There was the picture of the sailors in a small group. Until that point, I had never seen anything like it. I had to try it. No reasonable person could blame me for that. I queried Brian Kidd, who put me in touch with Lindsey Philpott, who told me that Charlie Bell was the man in the pictures who had made the frames. Lindsey asked Charlie if he would mind a phone call from me for some questions. I had a great conversation with Charlie, and have been dabbling in sennit frames ever since. This is Charlie's story.

Charlie's father worked as an electrician in the Brooklyn Naval Yard. In 1944, Charlie was 10 years old and his father transferred to the Naval shipyard in Long Beach, California, so the family moved west. Upon completing high school, Charlie joined the shipyard family as an apprentice boat builder. Over the next dozen years he worked as a boat builder, joiner, shipwright, and eventually a shipwright supervisor. A couple more promotions placed him as the head of the woodworking shop as production superintendent. His remaining seven years of federal service were in the public works department as group superintendent of the various shops there. Charlie retired in 1993 after a forty-two year career.

Charlie Bell explaining a Turk's Head bracelet he made, to a young viewer at the Dana Point Tallships Festival with his bellrope display and covered bottles.

Charlie discovers the square rigged brig Pilgrim

Four years after retiring, Charlie noticed an article in the newspaper about a square rigged ship, which was having its main deck replaced, and the work was being done by a group of volunteers. That's all it took. Charlie headed down the coast to Dana Point Harbor to lend a hand with the work and caulking that would follow. I was natural for him to stay on beyond the deck work. Charlie is still part of the volunteer maintenance and sailing crew over 18 years later. He learned numerous knots along the way, including some fancy work.

In 2003 the Pilgrim sailed to Santa Barbara, where Charlie saw a knotted frame in a maritime museum. That is where his interest in frames started. He took several photos, and after studying them for a couple of months, he started to work. The result of his labor was a frame with a small boy, an earlier version of himself.

The brig Pilgrim in a frame by Charlie

Frame detail

Over the next two years, Charlie made a variety of knot and canvas items, bell ropes, key fobs, buckets, wall bags, and other things. One day, while scanning the internet, he saw a couple of frames made by Charles Jordan, a frame maker from the southwest corner of Oregon. The sennit work and sheer imagination were beyond anything that he had ever seen. Charlie was able to contact Mr. Jordan and found him to be most generous in sharing information, and Charles Jordan sent him many photos of frames that he had made. All of Charlie's frames that followed have a strong influence of the work by Charles Jordan, and Charlie is proud to say that without his influence, he could very easily have made only one frame.

The artist, Charlie Bell, as a young man

Above: The Pilgrim under sail; Upper right, old tars in a frame by Charlie and, right, a print of a painting of a ship under full sail, frame by Charlie, patterned after one made by Charlie Jordan

Charlie said he has several good friends that he wants to make frames for and plans to do so in the near future.

Special thanks to Charlie Bell for his many contributions to this article.

2016 Meeting Plans

THE IGKT 2016 AGM
KNOTTING 4 ALL
2K16
Will be held in Fareham, Hampshire, UK.
From Tuesday 3 May to Sunday 8 May 2016.
CALL FOR TALKS, DEMONSTRATIONS & DISPLAYS

There will be five days to hold workshops, demonstrations and discussions. If you would like to demonstrate a technique to people in groups or one-to-one please let us know. There will be five days for all sorts of activities but we do need people to ***participate***.

Do you have a rope making machine? If so bring it along. We want to have a variety of machines on display so that people can compare and discuss techniques.

Please contact Chris Jenkins (E: igktchris@btinternet.com) with details of what you would like to do. The more people get involved, the better it will be.

There will be a number of raffles throughout the event so please bring items to include if you can.

Detailed information is on inserts with this issue of Knotting Matters.

Provisional Programme

Fareham Sailing Club

Tuesday 3 May	Informal workshops and get together
Wednesday 4 May	Informal workshops and get together
Thursday 5 May	Informal workshops and get together
Musical evening	(Bring your voice and/or instrument)

Ferneham Hall

Friday 6 May	Registration
	Set up displays, Workshops and talks
	Raffle
Delme Arms	IGKT Evening social (Bar food available)

Ferneham Hall

Saturday 7 May	Registration
	AGM 1030-1200
	Public Exhibition 1300-1700
	Raffle
	Dinner & Entertainment
	Grand Draw
Sunday 8 May	Auction & Departure

[***Sounds like the Sunday Roast at Delme Arms is delicious! - Ed***]

North American Branch Meeting

by

Glenn Dickey, Editor, InterKnot

The IGKT-NAB had their annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio on October 30 through November 1, 2015. Twenty-three registered members were in attendance. For our overseas members, the State of Ohio is ½ the size of the UK with ½ the population. Membership in Ohio, until this meeting, consisted of two members. In order to have this size meeting, some NAB people had to travel great distances in order to meet and work with others from the IGKT. Distances traveled for some were Florida - 900 miles, Iowa - 650 miles, Indiana - 200 miles, and Canada - 400 miles. With members from Canada attending, it truly was an international meeting.

Classes were given in splicing kernmantle rope and specialty lines, making Minions from paracord as gifts for kids by John Staley, and needle hitching by John Wolf. Demonstrations were given for knotted picture framework, and splicing micro lines in Spectra cordage. Tables were set up for members to display their work. Members were very keen to assist visitors in learning how to tie knots and fancy ropework. Consequently we had four people become IGKT members at the meeting.

The ditty bag and ropework from L'Hermione are in Columbus, Ohio. Negotiations are underway at the moment with The Ohio State University in Columbus to have the ditty bag and contents put on temporary display. After being on public display the ditty bag and contents will travel to other IGKT branches for display in their areas. Lunch was served by box lunches on Saturday. Dinner was held at a nice restaurant on Saturday evening. Loren Damewood kept the waiters in close attendance to our table by passing out his trademark multi-lead, multi-bight Turk's Head bracelets. Count on the bracelets (as of the meeting date) was over 2,100 for the year. ***The IGKT-NAB meeting is scheduled for Charleston, South Carolina on November 4th to the 6th in 2016.*** Final meeting location is to be determined. Please contact Dan Machowski for details about the 2016 meeting.

Bosun's Whistle Knot Expansion Tutorial

by

Dr. Colin Byfleet

At the recent meeting in Rotterdam, much concentration was expended in learning to tie an enlarged lanyard knot as described on his website by Nicolas Forgeau, the treasurer of IGKT France.

What follows is a guide in English, to accompany Nicolas' clear images, for those whose French is as bad as your correspondent's.

From http://www.nico-matelotage.com/article-allonger-un-noeud-de-sifflet-de-bosco-a-l-infini-ou-noeud-de-sifflet-de-bosco-portugais-109480706.html

The bosun's whistle knot is a very pretty knot and is a classic one that all sailors should know how to make. The Bosuns (or Boatswains) used it to tie their whistles around their necks. It is widely used for lanyards, and it is the basis of many decorative knots.

Base Method

1 Start by folding the rope in half and hold it between your fingers as shown [Stage 1]

2 Make a half-turn with each of the two working ends [Stage 2].

3 Then do the same with the other. Crossing all the loops, going over, under, over. You finish with a Carrick knot with two ends connected by the loop behind your hand [Stage 3 & 4]

4 Take the two working ends into the center, by passing behind the leads going to the loop behind your hand - you now have your bosun's whistle knot [Stage 5]

5 Now you just need to tighten it carefully [Stage 6].

Extending the knot

1 Start, as before, by folding the rope in half, and hold it between your fingers as shown [Stage 7 - Extending *cf* Stage 1].
2 Make a half-turn more with the working ends [Stage 8].
3 Then, as earlier, cross over two, then under one, and finally over the other two cords [Stage 9].
4 Now take the other working end, pass it over two, under one and over two, to make a locking tuck for the square centre of the knot [Stage 10].
5 Next take one end over one and then under the cord that is going down between your first and second fingers [Stage 11 & 12].
6 Do the same symmetrically with the other working end [Stage 13/14].
7 Tuck the ends up through [Stage 15], adjust carefully, and you have your extended bosun's whistle knot [Stage 16].

Now we will see how to turn this into a Bosun's whistle knot, lengthened with double chevrons. – see http://www.nico-matelotage.com/article-noeud-de-sifflet-de-bosco-allonge-a-chevrons-sur-deux-112931587.html
The base is the extended Bosun's whistle knot we have made previously. The process is not very complicated; just follow the method of doubling the chevron (as in a pineapple knot).
1 We start with the extended knot, but instead of bringing the ends out in the middle, return the leads to the starting points. (i.e., they emerge on the same end as the loop.) Using both leads, in turn, you now make a sort of pineapple knot insert. The extended knot is a five lead Turks head, and the insert is a three lead TH, interwoven [Stage 1, Stage 2 next]
2 Going in parallel to one of the loop leads, pass over one (in phase)
3 Then under the crossing. Repeat with the other working end [Stage 3]
4, 5 Descend over two, then pass under the crossing. Do the same with the second end [Stage 4 & 5].
6 Go upwards over two [Stage 6].
7 Then pass under the crossing, and under the next cord. Do the same with the other working end [Stage 7].
8 Pass over two, and bring out in the center of the knot at the top, and do the same with the other working end [Stage 8].
9 Adjust methodically and symmetrically [Stage 9],
… and you get the bosun's whistle knot lengthened with two chevrons!

Stage 1

Stage 2

Stage 3

Stage 4

Stage 5

Stage 6

Stage 7

Stage 8

Stage 9

Stage 10

Stage 11

Stage 12

Stage 13

Stage 14

Stage 15

Stage 16

See Page 42, lower section, for written instructions

Stage 1

Stage 2

Stage 3

Stage 4

Stage 5

Stage 6

Stage 7

Stage 8

Stage 9

IGKT France
Appel à cotisation Honfleur les 12 et 13 Mars, 2016

Le montant de la cotisation 2016 s'élève à :
30 € pour les familles ou les associations
20 € pour les adultes
5 € pour les mineurs

Le Bureau vous remercie par avance de régler cette cotisation dès que possible (cette remarque ne s'adresse pas bien évidemment à ceux qui ont déjà réglé !)
1. Pour un paiement par chèque: le chèque est à établir à l'ordre de « IGKT France » et doit être adressé à :
IGKT France chez CIM-Corderie Royale
M. Nicolas Forgeau
BP 50108
17303 ROCHEFORT CEDEX
2. Pour un paiement par PayPal: merci de contacter Nicolas Forgeau (forgeau.nicolas@gmail.com)
3. Par virement bancaire (identification internationale):
BIC : SOGEFRPP
IBAN : FR76 3000 3009 6000 0372 6390 802

Merci de mettre à jour vos coordonnées en cas de changement :
Nom :
Prénom :
Adresse :
Téléphone :
E-mail :

A Yorkshire Branch by David Pearson

Following years of meetings and events as the West Yorkshire Branch, but attended by members from all over Yorkshire and further afield, we have decided to drop the West from our title. If anybody in future seeks to open another branch in Yorkshire we will happily revert to West again and be pleased to give them our support.

Our year started with our branch meeting in March, attended by twenty two members, with a theme of ropes made without the use of a machine. Our first outdoor meeting was to Skipton Waterways Festival, which is a regular and popular event, and was staffed by members from Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cleveland which emphasises the area that our branch covers.

A week later the Yorkshire Branch hosted the Guild A.G.M. in Otley. Several days later we were able to meet up with our Tasmanian member Frank Brown, with his wife Lynn, on a tour that managed to miss our A.G.M. by two days. There were numerous other events throughout the summer at Canal Festivals, Country Parks, and Animal Sanctuaries. Other members attended events in their own areas and I can only report on the ones that I attended.

The Yorkshire Branch was well represented at the Half yearly Guild meeting in Rotterdam where we met both old and new friends.
Our year culminated in another branch meeting with twenty one attendees and our theme was "Novelties that we give away or sell very cheaply, the subject was covered very ably by Sue Morriss.

Branch Meetings for 2016 are 20th March and 20th November.

David Pearson

Alaskan Branch
Every Thu. evening 6:00 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Ave., Anchorage, AK
Contact Charles Rigden
Tel: (1) 928/231-4775

East Anglian Branch
Contact: Stuart Weston
152 Kittiwake Court, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5GS
01449 674327
07801 239731
pugwash1941@gmail.com

French Branch
Contact Jean-Pierre Durand
06 64 00 66 91
durand0547@orange.fr
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact: Matthias Boeving
Tel.: +49 208 3075171
info@knotengilde.de
Deutsche Sektion e.V. c/o Schiffahrtsmuseum, Schiffbruecke 39, 24939
Flensburg, Germany

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch
Meeting the second Thursday of each month, in the Red Lion at Winsford from 1200 to 1600 hrs, and the 3rd Wed. at Ellesmere Port Boat Museum from 1100 to 1400 hrs; contact either Paul or Ian at rope.what.knot@gmail.com Evening or weekend meetings could be set up for those unable to be here at lunch-time.

Netherlands
Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Frits Ottens
Tel: +31(0)587850011
Fruitstraat 58, 8933 GR Leeuwarden, Netherlands
E-mail: frits.efina@telfort.nl

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock

NAB - Knot in the Middle
Contact: Rusty Helms

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month
At the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (upstairs or in their store)
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch
Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone for more details
Contact: Tony Shellard
Tel: +44(0) 1483 502 156
www.surreyknots.org.uk

Sweden
Contact: Christoffer Åström
Tel: +46 736 381 731
E-mail: christoffer@knopar.se

West Country Knotters
Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
The Benjamin Perry Boathouse Activity and Training Centre
Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6TJ
Contact: Richard Hopkins for directions
Tel: 0117 986 7146
May be subject to change - call first

Yorkshire Branch
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Back Cover - John Richings' expression of what a knotty Christmas tree would look like - grand! - Ed